Indian flankers

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Rear Del. wagon Cavalry Lt White Lt Advance guard scouts

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Indian flankers

Aug. 17, crossed headwaters Red Bluff Cr. at 10:10 A.M., struck Palo Doro about 1:20 P.M. and marched up it until 5:50 and went into camp on west bank of same. Marches 12 hrs. 20 min today and 30 miles, saw many buffalo and signs of Indians. Guides drove 13 head Texas cattle into camp tonight and I gave them permission to kill one which they did and every one had fresh meat. At 10 P.M. hard wind storm came up and had hard time to prevent horses from stampeding. All men turned out except J. H. Plummer and C. E. Jones who had to be ordered a second time. These 2 men will be discharged at first opportunity. Lt. Henely and I sick all night from drinking acid water and eating too much fresh meat.

Aug. 18, marched 50 miles. Left camp at 5:20 and marched until 8:15 and had breakfast. Went up Palo Doro and crossed creek at 10 and went up on plain traveling an old trail. Passed through old camp of Capt. Penrose, made in '68. After leaving creek march was over almost level plain. Very tedious march today almost without water. Went into camp at 10 PM on West Adobe Walls Cr. where there is plenty of grass, splendid water and good timber. Last 5 or 6 miles very sandy and rough. Everybody worn out on arriving in camp as well as animals. We are near Canadian river. Flankers report seeing Indians during march today so every precaution is taken to prevent surprise. One of the hardest marches today I have ever made with troops, more especially for want of water.

Wed. Aug. 19. Feeling much refreshed this morning, but am very hungry, having eaten nothing since yesterday at 4 A.M. Am fortunate in being in unusually good camp in many respects. After breakfast I started about 9:30 AM with 9 of my men for the stockade which had been built by a company of hunters who were occupying it about 3/4 mile from my camp. My object was to inspect the place, and see how many men occupying it so as to be able to make a full report. I had proceeded about to mile when I heard the yells of wild Indians who were in hot pursuit of 5 men who belonged to the stockade, two of them mounted on ponies and three in wagon. These men had gone out about 3 miles for meat. The Indians came on, to within 500 yards of defenses which had been well prepared to fight behind. We made our way to stockade thru shower of bullets. They killed and scalped one of the hunters named Huffman. They were completely surprised when they discovered my camp, or they left immediately they made the discovery. There were about 100 Indians in the attacking party. Within 2 min. after they attacked the camp, Henely was after them with the Cavalry. And as soon as I could get the Delawares out I joined them and we chased them 12 miles crossing the Canadian and going south among the sand hills. As they began to increase in number we halted and discontinued pursuit as we did not desire to attack a superior force, being ordered by Gen. Miles not to do this. The Delawares were ahead of us as skirmishers and some of them did not return until 5 PM. Several ponies were captured during chase, with saddles and all equipment on.